

The Origin of Our Species: Evolution or Intervention?

*Are humans the
engineered
product of
flesh-and-blood
"gene genies"
rather than an
accident of
evolution?*

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INSIGHTS INTO MAN'S GENETIC INHERITANCE

Flesh-and-blood "gods" used genetic engineering to create mankind "in their own image" to be slaves. This amazing conclusion can be drawn from a literal interpretation of 5,000-year-old texts unearthed during the last 100 years by archaeologists in Mesopotamia. In this article I offer scientific evidence from these ancient texts that confirms this assertion, and suggest that the "gods" who created us may still be with us today, benefiting from genetic longevity. As incredible as it might seem at first, these "gods" may have been ruling the Earth for around 270,000 years.

More recently, during the last 13,000 years, it appears that individual gods have taken turns for "lordship" over the Earth according to a "star-clock" which divides the Earth's 25,920-year precessional cycle into 12 periods. The evidence for this star-clock still exists today at the enigmatic sites of Stonehenge in England and Machu Picchu in Peru. Analysis of the star-clock provides scientific grounds for believing that flesh-and-blood gods—our creators—are preparing for their imminent return amongst us.

CIVILISATION: A GIFT FROM "THE GODS"?

In recent years, new discoveries have challenged fundamentally our preconceptions regarding mankind's past. The paradigm shift which is currently underway is centred on Egypt, where the discovery of a secret doorway inside the Great Pyramid and the independent dating of the Sphinx to at least the era 10,500 BC to 8000 BC have captured the public's imagination. Less well known is the discovery that ultrasonic machining, a technology discovered only in the late 20th century, was most likely used to cut the ancient Egyptian granite.¹

These historical anomalies are not just confined to Egypt. All over the world we find sites—such as Stonehenge, Tiwanaku (Tiahuanaco), Nazca, Baalbek, and, now, underwater structures in Japan²—that do not fit the historical paradigm. At Baalbek in Lebanon, to name but one example, an ancient stone platform includes three 800-ton stones which have been placed in a wall at a height of 20 feet.

Such a construction would be difficult even for modern-day engineers with the very latest crane technology. In summary, a shadowy prehistory seems to exist as a legacy in the form of stone, maps and mythologies which our 20th century technology has only lately allowed us to recognise.

These historical anomalies have caused many writers to grasp at Atlantis. However, I believe that the advanced knowledge of the Egyptians, the Maya of Central America and many other ancient peoples can be traced back to the civilisation of Sumer which suddenly and mysteriously emerged 6,000 years ago. The Sumerians claimed that their culture was a gift not from Atlantis but from "the gods", and that these gods had created mankind. In view of the physical evidence, can we afford to dismiss the Sumerians' claims?

Many of us will find the concept of "gods" rather alien or meaningless, for we have been conditioned to believe in One God and disregard gods with a small "g" as idols, supernatural beings or manifestations of primitive mythology. These preconceptions are the legacy of 2,000 years of monotheism which has not only distorted the original meaning of the ancient texts but, more importantly, has veiled our ways of thinking.

Whilst the term "gods" is full of awkward connotations for us, the Sumerians did not suffer from such problems and regarded these gods as flesh-and-blood people who, due to their higher status and technology, ruled over mankind. They called them "the Anunnaki", meaning "those who came from the heavens to Earth".

NATURAL SELECTION vs 'DIVINE' INTERVENTION

The Sumerian claim that man was created by the Anunnaki gods clearly implies that we did not evolve by the Darwinian process of natural selection. Is there any scientific basis for such a controversial claim?

The evolutionist Stephen Jay Gould has indeed referred to the "awesome improbability of human evolution".³ Allow me to highlight the scale of these improbabilities. If we use an ape as the starting point, a significant number of big evolutionary jumps are necessary if it is to evolve into a man. Scientists agree that mutation is the mechanism by which natural selection works, but they also agree that the vast majority of mutations are bad. They also agree that the mutational mechanism must take a long time because mutations which produce big changes (macromutations) are particularly dangerous to the survival of a species. Furthermore, they say, if a positive mutation is going to take hold in a species it will do so only in the right circumstances, such as when a small population becomes isolated.

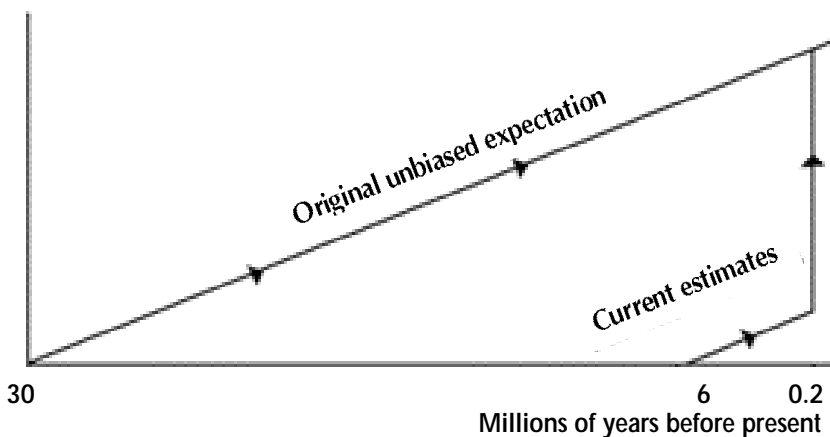
This combination of improbable factors, allied with the short period of six million years allowed for man's supposed evolution from the apes, has caused severe discomfort for some of our top evolutionary scientists and thinkers such as Roger Penrose and Noam Chomsky.⁴

Back in 1954 it was thought that the hominid line leading to mankind split from the apes 30 million years ago, and that we then proceeded to evolve gradually into our present form.⁵ That 30-million-year period sets an unbiased benchmark of how long evolution should possibly have taken. However, following the discovery that the split occurred only six million years ago, evolutionists have been forced to assume a much faster rate of evolution to explain our existence.

The other disconcerting discovery since 1954 is the shockingly slow evolutionary progress made by *Homo erectus* and his predecessors up to around 200,000 years ago. The evolutionary graph has thus changed from a nice straight line into an overnight explosion (Figure 1).

The great power of Darwinism, according to its proponents such as Richard Dawkins, is that, given enough time, natural selection can explain anything and everything. But when it comes to mankind, the lack of evolutionary time becomes a major problem. What are the odds against mankind benefiting from not one, but several macromutations in the course of only six million years?

Figure 1: Evolutionary graph



To illustrate the point further, the Darwinists often claim that we are remarkably similar to the chimpanzee since 98 per cent of our DNA is identical. I would like to turn this ratio around and ask how a mere two per cent genetic difference can account for so many 'value-added' features in mankind: the larger-sized brain, language and sexuality, to name but a few. Furthermore, it is a strange fact that *Homo sapiens* has only 46 chromosomes compared to 48 in chimpanzees and gorillas. The theory of natural selection has been unable to suggest how the fusing together of two chromosomes—a major structural change—should have come about in such a short time-scale.

How did the hominid known as *Homo erectus*, unchanged after 1.2 million years, suddenly transform itself 200,000 years ago into *Homo sapiens* with a 50 per cent increase in brain size together with language capability and a modern anatomy? One of the central principles of Darwinism is that "nature never overendows a species beyond the needs of everyday existence".⁶ Where was the competitor that caused the brain of *Homo sapiens* to evolve to such an extreme level of size and complexity? What rival caused intellectual ability to be such an essential survival development? Who were we trying to outsmart?

One hundred years ago genetics was an unknown science, so it would have been ridiculous to suggest that the biblical idea of divine creation was actually a physical, genetic intervention. Nowadays, the intervention which is alluded to by the Sumerian texts cannot be dismissed so easily.

It is a fact that in the late 20th century we now possess the genetic capability to act as "gods" by creating life in a test tube. The highly focused change in two per cent of the human DNA, as just described, defies Darwinism but is highly suggestive of genetic intervention.

Furthermore, the possibility of our DNA being semi-extraterrestrial could help explain the many anomalous features of mankind which have been cited by supporters of the aquatic ape theory.⁷

The idea of a genetic enhancement by the Anunnaki gods (I have termed this "interventionism") provides an alternative to the conventional debate between Church and Science. Most importantly, it provides us with two scientific theories from which to choose.

In the past, evolutionists have forced their theory of natural selection to fit mankind simply because no other scientific theory seemed to exist. They were unable to consider genetic intervention for the reason that the science of genetics did not exist. Even now, their eyes and minds remain closed to the possibility of intervention due to the widespread prejudice which dismisses "the gods" as mythology.

THE 'IMMORTAL' SUMERIAN GODS

Why are the tales of the gods so routinely dismissed as mythology? One reason is because of the representations of the Hindu and Egyptian gods which combine human and animal features. However, these unreal zoomorphic images were designed to represent certain perceived attributes of real anthropomorphic gods from an earlier era.

If we travel back in time to the civilisation of Sumer where the people lived alongside their gods, then we find that the Anunnaki gods were indeed depicted as humanlike (Figure 2). The term "gods"

must therefore be understood as representing technologically advanced, flesh-and-blood people who created us "in their own image" and thus physically resemble us. If they passed among us today, we would not know it.

An even greater conceptual problem arises from consideration of the alleged immortality of the Anunnaki gods, and this is the area I concentrate upon in this article.

According to an ancient text known as the *Atra-Hasis*, the same god who created man also saved Noah from the Flood and was later worshipped by the Sumerian people in the period 3800-2000 BC. If this god, known as Ea or Enki, was truly the creator of *Homo sapiens* as claimed, then he must have been at least 180,000 years old in Sumerian times. It is not surprising that scholars have therefore rejected these claims as romanticised mythology.

The example just cited is typical of ancient texts which consistently attest to the immortality of the gods. But what if these gods only appeared to be immortal? What if their apparent immortality was actually an extended longevity?

With the benefit of hindsight, we do indeed find textual clues to suggest that the Anunnaki did suffer the effects of ageing over the very long term. Ninharsag, for instance, a goddess who assisted in the creation of man, was later known in Egypt as "the Cow"—an unflattering reference with definite ageing connotations. The Canaanite god El, meanwhile, was described in one ancient text as having a grey beard.

LONGEVITY: THE NEW GENETIC SCIENCE

What does modern science have to say on the question of extended longevity? Is it physically possible for a humanlike body to survive for thousands of years? Let us now review the latest findings from genetic science.

In the past we might have been forgiven for thinking that our bodies simply wore out through the stresses of everyday life. However, we now understand that ageing is genetically pre-programmed into the cells of the human body. When our cells divide, the splitting of one cell into two involves a duplicating of the genetic message (the human genome) which is carried on the 46 chromosomes in every human cell. But instead of an exact duplication, our genetic program is being gradually eroded by an imperfect copying process. When enough of these genetic errors (or mutations) have accumulated in our cells, the effects of ageing become visible.

Geneticist Steve Jones describes ageing as a "biological identity crisis" and explains that our bodies are working from "an imperfect instruction manual, full of printing errors".⁸ Professor Rajinder Sohal of the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, states that "after the age of 55 human beings go to hell very fast because the rate of deterioration doubles every six years".⁹ So serious is this escalation in the rate of genetic degradation that, by the time we reach 80, a critical one-third of our protein has been damaged.

In June 1995 it was announced that scientists had found a longevity gene that could prolong the life of microscopic earthworms by up to 65 per cent. A team led by Tom Johnson of the Institute for Behavioral Genetics at the University of Colorado discovered a gene, which they named "Age-1", that regulated the worms' ability to repair their cells. By experimenting with mutations of this gene, they found that one mutation caused a remarkable improvement in the worms' resistance to toxins, temperature fluctuations and ultraviolet radiation. The team believes that this major breakthrough represents the first step towards understanding how cells that degenerate in later life can be repaired. They hope that within the next decade the human equivalent of Age-1

will be understood, enabling human life to be prolonged by more than 40 years.

In December 1995 it was reported that Dr Barbara Bregman and teams from the University of Zürich and Georgetown University in Washington, DC, had also made another major breakthrough, hailed as "the holy grail of neurobiology". It had been thought that it was biologically impossible to regenerate the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord (unlike other body tissues) once they were damaged. However, Bregman discovered that by using antibodies she could block the

action of inhibitor chemicals which prevented the nerve cells of rats from growing. In this way, she successfully managed to restore the growth potential which the rats' cells had when they were young. This discovery has enormous significance for human longevity since the human brain is one of our most critical systems. Curiously, cell divisions within our brains cease at a very early stage, followed by a long process of gradual cell deaths. This affects critical faculties such as hearing, sense of smell and memory.

The idea of a genetic enhancement by the Anunnaki gods (I have termed this "interventionism") provides an alternative to the conventional debate between Church and Science.



Figure 2: The gods Enki and Enlil (seated)

Meanwhile, a team of scientists in France, led by Dr François Schachter, has been studying an equally critical system: the human immune system. By means of a painstaking comparison of French centenarians' DNA to a control sample of the general population, Schachter has already found one gene, named "HLA-DR", which is far more prevalent in the centenarian group. The immune system, rather strangely, has the highest mutation rate of all body cells and is among the first to fail with age, leaving us susceptible to all manner of diseases. The combined deterioration of the immune system and the brain is central to the ageing process which ends in natural death.

Why is the genetic copying system so imperfect? It would seem that the problem lies partly in the air that we breathe. Doug Wallace, head of genetics at Emory University in Atlanta, USA, has spent 25 years studying minute organisms called mitochondria which exist inside every human cell. These mitochondria are the power plants of the cells, and thus of the body, synthesising oxygen (provided by our red blood cells) and other nutrients to provide energy for the cells' various functions. Wallace, along with many other eminent scientists, believes that excess "free radicals" cause corrosive damage to the cells.

Dr François Schachter's colleague Marie-Laure Muirais is one of many scientists who are studying ways to reduce the damage caused by free radicals. Muirais has found in the centenarian group a gene, named "PARP", which may be responsible for specifying the DNA repair process. If we could fully understand this genetic system, we could consider the creation of genes which specified a super-efficient maintenance system.

An alternative defence against ageing is to fend off the free radicals before they cause any damage. Professor Rajinder Sohal has injected fruit flies with genes which protect their cells against free-radical attack and has already successfully increased their life-spans by one third. Doug Wallace thinks it may be possible to overcome the effect of the free radicals by assembling a cocktail of chemicals to form a barrier around the cells.

Recent research has begun to provide clues as to the exact process of cell ageing. Scientists at the Geron Corporation, whose board of advisors includes James Watson (from the famous Watson and Crick partnership that discovered the structure of the DNA molecule), believe they may have discovered the biological clock, the mechanism that controls life and death in the cell. It is called a "telomere"—a repeating DNA sequence found at the tail of every chromosome and often compared to the protective plastic tip of a shoelace. Every time a cell divides and the DNA in the chromosome replicates, this tail grows a little shorter. In a baby it is about 20,000 'letters' long, whilst in a 60-year-old it is less than half this. When the telomere has been reduced to a certain point, the cell stops dividing and enters a stage called "senescence". At this point, the cells and their functions suffer an escalating amount of damage.

Scientists working for the Geron Corporation are quietly confident that it may be possible to influence the length of a telomere. This would be a dramatic development, with the possibility of preventing the vast majority of genetic copying errors arising in the first place as well as enabling the restoration of youth to already senescent cells.

If we can eliminate the effect of the free radicals, indefinitely extend the number of cell divisions and possibly even restore growth to nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, what limits would there be to human life? Even if we were to suffer disfiguring accidents, new breakthroughs in tissue engineering could step in to repair and preserve our bodies.

In the words of Dr François Schachter, one of the most eminent scientists in the field, "There is no reason why we should not extend the maximum human life-span. We are very close to having the technology, and the pieces of the jigsaw are rapidly falling into place."¹⁰

LONGEVITY OF THE GODS

As we stand on the threshold of a huge breakthrough in the science of ageing, we have to ask ourselves whether the Anunnaki gods, who allegedly created us, were here before us.

There is evidence that our genes, the genes we inherited from the gods, evolved over a long and peaceful period—elsewhere. However, while the laws of natural selection would statistically favour the development of longevity genes, it is difficult to imagine that the gods *naturally* acquired life-spans of hundreds of thousands of years. The feasible solution to this puzzle could be that they artificially mutated their genes, using a form of gene therapy such as our own scientists are now researching. We are

thus at a point in history where we can begin to take seriously the textual evidence that the gods *appeared* to be immortal.

If the gods did live so long, what evidence would we expect to find? Fossilised remains, if they existed, would tell us nothing. The genetic code would also be mute unless we could march one of these super-beings into a laboratory (a most unlikely prospect). The only evidence of such longevity would therefore be textual records and cultural impact. This is exactly what we find.

A strange feature of the ancient Mesopotamian texts dealing with the affairs of the Anunnaki is their preoccupation with having offspring by a half-sister. Under the gods' rules of succession, the progeny of such an alliance became the legal heir in preference to the first-born son. This rule is recorded in the tale of the chief god Anu (who resided in "Heaven") and his two sons who descended to Earth. The first-born son, Enki, was displaced by the second-born son, Enlil, who was the offspring of Anu and his half-sister. Enlil thus preserved his father's genes through the male line far better than Enki. Such a practice seems strange to us because it verges on incest. Furthermore, it increases the risk of inheriting two copies of a harmful recessive gene. Why then were the gods not only unconcerned about inbreeding, but positively in favour of it?

The answer can only be that the genes of the Anunnaki were pure and contained no harmful imperfections. This might explain the rather strange meaning of the name of the Babylonian god Marduk (MAR.DUK, "Son of the Pure Mound"), possibly indicating the genetic purity of his father Enki. Detailed textual evidence consistently suggests that the gods were trying to avoid dilution of their artificially enhanced longevity genes.

Nevertheless, whatever genetic improvements the Anunnaki had made, they still experienced an inexorable state of deterioration. In addition to the examples cited earlier, my studies show

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that the elder gods Enlil and Enki entered a distinct retirement phase in mankind's more recent history. If this were the case, then we would expect to find evidence of further attempts to slow down the ageing process—steps above and beyond the original, artificial creation of the genes and their ancestral preservation through incest. We are talking here of a maintenance system, directly equivalent to the modern fight against free radicals. Once again, this is exactly what we find.

It has long been assumed that Egyptian depictions of gods being served with cups (contents unknown) symbolised their immortality. The ancient artist would hardly bother to commemorate the event if it were not important.

The symbolic importance of the cup of immortality is also evident from numerous Mesopotamian tombs where archaeologists have found bodies lying with the hand holding a cup to the mouth, as if the dead were about to drink. These burials included various other accoutrements for day-to-day life, implying an association of the cup with eternal life in the hereafter. The cultural comparison with Egypt hardly requires elaboration.

Does the ancient Egyptian association of gods and cups represent an eyewitness account of the gods consuming anti-ageing substances?

Such observation may have occurred not necessarily in Egypt but in nearby Mesopotamia, where the kings and high priests lived alongside their gods.

One source of this esoteric knowledge may have been the Sumerian king, Gilgamesh. Tablet X of *The Epic of Gilgamesh* describes his journey to the land of the Anunnaki, where he meets Noah (Ziusudra, or Utnapishtim). In Tablet XI, Noah relates to Gilgamesh the story of the Flood, and then gives to the departing hero a plant called "the old man becomes young":

*Gilgamesh, I will reveal unto thee
a hidden thing,
namely, a secret of the gods I will tell thee:
there is a plant like a thorn...
Like a rose its thorns will prick thy hands.
If thy hands will obtain that plant, thou wilt find new life.*

Another Sumerian text, dealing with the tale of Adapa—a "model man" created by Ea/Enki—describes his trip to Nibiru, the planet of the gods. Here we find references to "the water of life" and "the bread of life". Finally, there is the biblical Garden of Eden with its "tree of life" which offered potential immortality to Adam and Eve. From a genetic perspective all of these substances, including the "fruit" in the Garden of Eden, could have been anti-ageing drugs which protected the cells against damage by free radicals.

THE MEANING OF EDEN

The biblical tale of Adam and Eve is nowadays regarded as pure myth, but three clues suggest that it might reflect a highly embellished account of a real event.

The first clue is the presence of the serpent—a well-known symbol for the ancient Egyptian gods and particularly Enki himself, the genetic engineer who allegedly created mankind.

The second clue is the acquisition by Adam and Eve of sexual knowledge. Ancient texts such as the *Atra-Hasis* suggest that the first man, referred to as the LU.LU, was a hybrid mixture of Anunnaki and *Homo erectus*, and that further men and women were then cloned in order to relieve the toil of the gods and goddesses.¹¹ As we shall soon see, these events preceded the Garden of Eden incident. Since virtually all hybrids are born sterile, the ability to procreate, which was bestowed on mankind in the Garden of Eden, becomes highly significant.

The third clue is the meaning of Eden, which is certainly derived from the Sumerian term E.DIN. Since DIN was an abbreviated form of DIN.GIR, meaning "the gods", there is little doubt that Eden meant "the abode of the gods". According to my studies, we would indeed expect there to be more than one abode of the gods, for the Earth was divided geographically between the two rival brothers Enlil and Enki and their respective descendants. Whilst the Enkiites inhabited the African continent (known as "Abzu" or "the lower world"), the Enlilites occupied Asia and particularly the fertile lands of Mesopotamia. We are thus dealing with a western Eden and an eastern Eden.

There is a strong suggestion in the Old Testament that man already existed when he was placed by God in the Garden of Eden.¹² A text, *The Myth of the Pickaxe*, named by Professor Samuel Kramer, confirms this and suggests that the Lord God was Enlil who travelled to Africa and seized the LU.LU slaves by force:

*The Lord called forth the ALANI,
gave its orders.
He set the earth-splitter as a crown
upon its head,
and drove it into the Place-Where-
Flesh-Sprouted-Forth.
In the hole was a head of a man;
from the ground, people were
breaking through towards Enlil.
He eyed the Black-headed Ones in
steadfast fashion.*

In other texts, the "Place-Where-Flesh-Sprouted-Forth" was referred to as "Bit Shimti"—the "house" of Shimti. The Sumerian syllables SHI.IM.TI literally translate as "breath-wind-life". Bit Shimti was thus the "house where the wind of life was breathed in". The wording is directly comparable to Genesis 2:7, where the Lord God formed man and "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life".

It would thus seem that man was originally formed by Enki in the western Eden of Africa (in accordance with "out of Africa" scientific evidence) and was subsequently seized by Enlil and placed in Mesopotamia to relieve the gods' toil in that region.

The reason for the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden now becomes clear. Until that time, men formed a controlled population which was used for slave labour, and longevity would thus have been a useful trait. However, once Adam and Eve were given the ability to procreate, it was essential to bar access to the "tree of life" by which they might live forever—otherwise there would have been an uncontrollable population explosion.

LONGEVITY OF MAN

If man was made in the genetic image of the Anunnaki who lived more than 200,000 years, then did man, too, originally have

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a longer life-span? Given the scenario which I have outlined so far, this would make sense. The Old Testament suggests that this was indeed the case, with Adam living 930 years. The Sumerian Kings Lists go even further, listing reigns lasting thousands of years (although some of these "kings" may well have been gods). It almost goes without saying that both of these sources of data have been traditionally disregarded due to their perceived impossibility. However, with the insight gained from modern genetics, we can now study this data scientifically.

The first thing that strikes us about the longevity recorded in the Bible is that the data must be significantly understated. The Old Testament carefully preserves the ancestral line of Adam through to Noah in its records of the ages at which each father begot a son. These years, including allowance for Noah's age at the time of the Flood, add up to 1,656, suggesting that mankind was created 1,656 years before the Flood. In addition, the Bible similarly records the ancestral line after the Flood from Noah to Abraham, amounting to a period of 292 years.

Whether we use 2123 BC for the date of Abraham's birth or any other commonly accepted date, these numbers simply do not stack up, for they suggest that the Flood took place in 2415 BC and man was created in 4071 BC. The scientific evidence of advanced civilisation in 3800 BC and *Homo sapiens* 200,000 years ago—in addition to the lack of any archaeological evidence of a Flood circa 4000 BC—suggests that the biblical data is fundamentally understated.

It seems to me that the biblical editors, lacking the knowledge of genetic science, were uncomfortable with the original life-spans from which they drew the biblical data. In my recently published book, *Gods of the New Millennium*, I have reconstructed the patriarchal life-spans by reversing the earlier editorial divisions. It is my conclusion that the pre-Flood life-spans were divided by a convenient factor of 100. Thus, Adam lived for 93,000 years.

MATHEMATICAL PROOF OF MAN'S LONGEVITY

Amazingly, it is possible to offer a chronological proof of my longevity theory, based on ancient texts which date the arrival of the Anunnaki and the creation of mankind relative to the Flood. The date of the arrival of the gods is given by the mysterious verse in Genesis 6, in which the Lord says:

My spirit will not contend with man for ever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.

This statement is made by the Lord shortly before the Flood and in the context of wishing to destroy mankind utterly. According to the Book of Genesis, Noah then proceeded to live for 950 years rather than the supposedly allotted 120. If, however, the original verse is translated literally, we find the past tense being used rather than the future tense. Thus, "his days were a hundred and twenty years".

In 1976, Zecharia Sitchin concluded that this count of "years" meant "periods" and should be applied not to mankind but to the deity.¹³ The Bible was thus recording the periods that the Lord had been on Earth. As for the date of mankind's creation, this is supplied by an Akkadian text, entitled "When the Gods like Men Bore the Work". This text states that the creation of man was pre-

ceded by 40 periods of suffering by the rank-and-file gods:

*For 10 periods they suffered the toil;
for 20 periods they suffered the toil;
for 30 periods they suffered the toil;
for 40 periods they suffered the toil.*

It was then, after these 40 periods, that the rank-and-file gods staged a rebellion which ended with an ingenious solution. The god Enki offered to genetically-engineer a slave worker to relieve the toil of the rank-and-file gods.

The above "40 periods", combined with the biblical "120 periods", provide the basis of a chronology for dating the creation of *Homo sapiens* to approximately 80 periods before the Flood.

But how long were these "periods"? Zecharia Sitchin concluded that the period was 3,600 years, based on a sacred number of the Sumerians. He was attracted to this possibility by Babylonian texts which listed various kings ruling for a total of 432,000 years (120 "sars" of 3,600 years each) before the Flood. Using a Flood date of 11,000 BC, Sitchin thus dated the arrival of the gods to 443,000 BC and the creation of man to 299,000 BC.¹⁴

But did Zecharia Sitchin get it right? The Babylonian data is in fact contradicted by a much earlier and more reliable Sumerian Kings List which listed only 67 sars before the Flood, not 120.¹⁵ I

have invested considerable time trying to prove Sitchin's chronology, based on a sar of 3,600 years, but have concluded that it cannot be reconciled with any degree of certainty. On the contrary, I have achieved an amazing reconciliation to both the Old Testament and the Sumerian Kings List using an alternative sar of 2,160 years.

This new chronology was prompted by a simple but stunning mathematical breakthrough relating to the Sumerian mathematical system. Unlike our decimal numbering system which uses units rising by a factor of 10 each time, the Sumerian system was sexagesimal or quasi base 60. The units of this, the world's first mathematical system, rather strangely alternated by factors of 10, then 6, then 10 and so on. The place-digits thus ascended as follows: 1, 10, 60, 600, 3,600, 36,000, 216,000, 2,160,000, 12,960,000. The last number, which was highly symbolic to the Sumerians, represented exactly 500 times 25,920 years, the latter period representing the precessional cycle which is caused by the Earth's wobble. The preceding units represented 100 and 1,000 multiplied by the precessional period of 2,160 years (25,920 divided by the sacred number 12). The number 2,160 thus played an equally important role to the number 3,600.

Many scientists have been mystified by the astronomical knowledge encoded in the Sumerian mathematical system. But here is something equally amazing. If we write the precessional number 2,160 in quasi base 60 Sumerian numerals, it appears as follows:

UNITS:	3,600	600	60	10	1			
	N/A	3	-	6	-	0	-	0

Continued on page 89

Continued from page 64

The numbers 2,160 and 3,600 are thus intimately related mathematically! Moreover, it seems to me that this relationship has caused a great deal of confusion. If we return to the Babylonian Kings Lists used by Sitchin, we find that the sars of 3,600 may well have been drawn from a Sumerian text which stated "a sar is 3-6-0-0". However, if that text had been properly converted from quasi base 60, it would really have been saying "a sar is 2,160".

Although both 3,600 and 2,160 were important numbers to the Sumerians, my study suggests that the number 2,160 became more important after the Flood. It is highly likely, in my opinion, that pre-Flood records expressed in sars of 3,600 years were converted after the Flood into sars of 2,160 years. Only after this conversion were the priests of the first civilisation told by the gods to pick up their pens and write.

In my book, I have set out the full details on how the 2,160-year sar perfectly reconciles the Sumerian Kings Lists and the Book of Genesis. In so doing, I have strengthened my argument that human lives

once spanned thousands of years. I have also reconstructed the entire sequence of life-spans for the patriarchs and shown exactly how our original longevity genes were lost. In addition to the dilution caused by natural genetic drift, I have identified a further genetic intervention by the Anunnaki at the time of the Flood in order to tackle man's tendency for rapid population growth. Incidentally, I suspect that the human races were also created via deliberate genetic intervention at this time.

Based on my dating of the Great Flood to 10,983 BC, I have concluded that the gods arrived in 270,183 BC and that man was created in 180,183 BC. It should be noted that the latter date is highly consistent with the fossil and genetic evidence for the sudden emergence of *Homo sapiens*.

THE STAR-CLOCK AND THE RETURN OF THE GODS

The chronological proof, based on the precessional period of 2,160 years, is but one aspect of a star-clock which was designed by the Anunnaki after the Flood to give the younger gods the opportunity for lordship over the Earth.

This star-clock is evident in the lion-bod-

ied Sphinx at Giza, symbolising the era of Leo (10,900-8700 BC) during which it was carved. Human civilisations, which began in the era of Taurus the Bull, used the symbol of the ram just over 4,000 years ago to commemorate the precessional shift to the era of Aries.

The gods' use of the star-clock at that time is evident in the design of both Stonehenge in England and the remote site of Machu Picchu in Peru—both designed as stellar observatories.¹⁶ Moving forward in time, recent books have identified Jesus and the Nazarenes as "fishers of men"—a sect with secret knowledge of the aeons, in effect a "new age" movement celebrating the beginning of the era of Pisces some 2,000 years ago.¹⁷

In summary, genetic science has finally enabled us to begin to unlock the secrets of our past and to recognise that the gods of ancient mythology were real, flesh-and-blood people, in all likelihood astronauts who had been given genetically enhanced life-spans. The reality of these "immortal" gods finally solves the mystery of how ancient civilisations gained a knowledge of

Continued on page 90

Continued from page 89

the 25,920-year precessional cycle and why they regarded it as important.

This astronomical knowledge has been preserved within certain occult traditions and secret societies for two millennia, but, as usual, the public is not in full possession of the facts.

Instead of recognising the imminent era of Aquarius as an astronomical watershed, we are mistakenly dismissing it as astrological bunkum and focusing our attention on the millennium with which it approximately coincides. Many of us are thus sleepwalking into the new era with a sense of expectation that something is about to happen. Millions of people are convinced that we will shortly be witnessing the Second Coming of Christ, an invasion of aliens, or the birth of a New World Order.

However, the evidence from our past throws up another extraordinary possibility: that the Anunnaki gods are about to return, either in a physical or political sense, and reassume the helm of the ship.

As unbelievable as it might seem at first, we may literally be about to meet our makers.

Endnotes

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2. *Ancient American*, no. 17, 1997.
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4. Dennett, D., *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, Penguin, 1995.
5. Diamond, J., *The Rise and Fall of the Third Chimpanzee*, Vintage, 1991, chapter 1, p. 20.
6. This statement is credited to Charles Darwin's partner, Alfred Wallace.
7. See, for example, Morgan, E., *The Aquatic Ape: A Theory of Human Evolution*, Souvenir Press, London, 1982.
8. Jones, S., *The Language of the Genes*, Flamingo, 1993, chapter 4, p. 93.
9. *Daily Mail*, 29 January 1996.
10. *ibid.*
11. *Atra-Hasis*, cited in Heidel, A., *The Gilgamesh Epic and Old Testament Parallels*, University of Chicago Press, 1949, 2nd ed., p. 115. Due to a break in the tablets, it is sometimes thought (incorrectly) that this act of creation followed the Flood.
12. Genesis 2:7-8.
13. Sitchin, Z., *The Twelfth Planet*, Avon Books, New York, 1976, chapter 8.
14. *op. cit.*, chapter 14.

15. Jacobsen, T., *The Sumerian King List*, Chicago, 1939; cited in von Däniken, E., *Signs of the Gods*, Putnam's, New York, 1980, pp. 201-2.

16. Alford, A.F., *Gods of the New Millennium*, Hodder & Stoughton, UK, 1997, chapter 11 (first published by Eridu Books, UK, 1996).

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Note: *Gods of the New Millennium* has recently been republished by Hodder & Stoughton and is available from bookshops in Australia, New Zealand, UK and Canada. US customers can order by credit card via the World Wide Web, <http://www.eridu.co.uk>, or by telephone/fax, +44 1543 370453.